



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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June 7, 1977~~CONFIDENTIAL~~MEMORANDUM

TO : ARA - Mr. William Luers
 ARA - Mr. Frank Devine
 ARA - Mr. Stephen Rogers
 USOAS - Mr. Robert White
 D/HA - Mr. Mark Schneider
 S/P - Mr. R. Feinberg
 ARA/AND - Mr. M.R. Barnebey
 ARA/ECA - Mr. Robert Zimmermann

FROM : ARA/PPC - Luigi Einaudi *LE*

SUBJECT: Guidance on Southern Cone Bloc Initiatives

Given the urgency of putting this out now, we will assume we have your clearance unless you provide comments (hopefully with alternate language) to Art Woodruff, ARA/PPC, x29193, before 3:30 p.m. today.

Department of State, AIGIS/IPS/SRP
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 IPS by *DR* Date *6-14-77*

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DRAFT CABLE

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TO: AMREP Precedence: PRIORITY
E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PA, AR, CO, BR, VE, BL, PE, EC, CI

SUBJECT: Guidance on Southern Cone initiatives bloc

REFERENCE: Asuncion 2279

1. Reftel reports that the prospective June 3 meeting of Southern Cone Chiefs of State has ~~apparently~~ been postponed and downgraded to a pre-OASGA meeting in Grenada among Foreign Ministers. This cable provides general guidance on our response to this and similar efforts to organize against ^{our policies on} ~~the promotion of~~ human rights.
2. While the disruptive potential of a geo-political and ideological bloc centered on the Southern Cone is clear, the difficulties encountered by the promoters of a Chiefs of State meeting suggest that practical feasibility of such a bloc is still limited. Unless some catalytic event intervenes, therefore, we suspect that if some Southern Cone Foreign Ministers do eventually meet in Grenada, they are likely to do little more than attempt to coordinate privately their views and positions prior to the OASGA.
3. As there is ample precedent for Latin American caucuses prior to international meetings, a Southern Cone mini-caucus in Grenada does not in itself warrant alarm. Nor for that

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matter, is it something we could at this point do much to prevent.

4. The longer-run implications of a regional or sub-regional coalition against our human rights policies is considerably more serious, however. Clearly, it would serve only Pinochet's interests to inveigle other countries into identification with Chile. Conversely, our relations with Argentina or Brazil and, for that matter, even the South American democracies could only be damaged by the emergence of such a bloc or their association with it. In addition, we have received assurances from the government of Paraguay that it would invite the IAHRC to visit Paraguay this year. Were this decision to be changed now under what could only appear to be pressures from an international coalition of military hardliners, the result would be very damaging to the inter-American system as well as to prospects for multilateralizing the promotion of internationally recognized human rights.

5. Our responses to feelers on these matters must keep several considerations in mind. We do not want to overreact in ways that would fuel fears of US intervention, provide ammunition to hardliners, embarrass our friends, or otherwise provoke a new wave of Latin American "solidarity" against us. Of equal importance, we do not want to take such a soft line that we appear defensive, confused, or prepared to yield to extreme nationalist reactions.

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relations and make adjustments to individual
situations more difficult than ever.

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